

**Asotin County Public Transportation Benefit Area
Comprehensive Plan**

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
June 2005 Transportation Commission Meeting

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Reviewed by: Judith Giniger, Director, Public Transportation and Rail
Approved by: Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this briefing paper is to update the Commission on the comprehensive plan developed for Asotin County in response to state law regarding the formation of Public Transportation Benefit Areas (PTBA's).

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Seek approval of the Asotin County Public Transportation Benefit Area Comprehensive Transit Plan.

BACKGROUND:

State law requires all PTBA's to develop a comprehensive transit plan for the area where service will be provided. (RCW 36.57A.060). The specific required elements of the comprehensive plan are contained in WAC 468-85.

State law requires the Transportation Commission to review and approve or disapprove the comprehensive plan. (RCW 36.57A.070).

DISCUSSION:

In early 2004 Asotin County expressed an interest in creating a PTBA, and they asked the Public Transportation and Rail Division for assistance in preparing their comprehensive plan. The Division utilized a technical assistance grant that they have with the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) to meet with the PTBA Board and community and write the comprehensive plan.

CTAA submitted the plan to the PTBA and the PTBA Board approved it in October 2004.

On November 2, 2004, voters approved a proposition for a 0.2 percent sales and use tax for the Asotin County PTBA. A 5-year sunset clause requires the county to go before voters again in 2010 for continued funding. The new transit tax helps maintain and improve the county's public transit services and provides the matching funds needed to

receive federal grants. The new funding for the PTBA made Asotin County the 27th transit system in Washington State.

The PTBA submitted the comprehensive plan to the Public Transportation and Rail Division. The Division staff reviewed the plan to ensure that all of the required elements of the comprehensive plan have been met under RCW 36.57A.060 and WAC 468-85.

The plan was written using the required elements as headers. This made it very easy to read and approve.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Asotin County Public Transportation Benefit Area Comprehensive Transit Plan.

For further information, contact Paula Hammond, Chief of Staff, 360-705-7027 or Judith Giniger, Public Transportation and Rail Director, 360-705-7921.